

Atty. Dkt. No. 043420-0118

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated May 5, 2004.

Claims 17-20, 22-30, 32-49, 51-59, and 61-79 were pending in the application.

Claims 17-20, 22-30, 32, 40-45 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

After canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 33-39, 46-49, 51-59, and 61-79 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 33-39, 46-49, 51-59, and 61-79 are allowed. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 17-20, 22-30, 32, 40-45 without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits. By canceling the claims rejected by the Examiner, the Applicants intend to obtain timely issuance of a patent containing claims reciting subject matter the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Applicants wish to make it clear that they do not agree with or acquiesce in the rejection of claims 17-20, 22-30, 32, 40-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and/or agree with the Examiner's view of the scope and content of the cited references.

* * *

The Applicants respectfully submit that each and every outstanding objection and rejection has been overcome, and the present Application is in a condition for allowance. The Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any minor matters that require attention, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance

Atty. Dkt. No. 043420-0118

of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 11, 2004

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